

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/816,799

Examiner

Sun J. Lin

Applicant(s)

WARREN, ROBERT

Art Unit

2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendments & Remarks filed 07/21/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21, renumbered (37 CFR 1.126).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Applicants' representative *William A Munck* gave authorization for this examiner's amendment on August 17, 2006. The application has been amended, based on Amendment filed on 07/21/2006, as follows:

- Claim 1, line 7, before "functional elements" insert **—plurality of—**.
- Claim 1, line 9, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 1, line 10, change "synchronisation" to **—synchronization—**.
- Claim 1, line 12, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 3, line 8, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 9, line 3, change "synchronising" to **—synchronizing—**.
- Claim 11, line 3, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 12, line 2, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 13, line 2, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 13, line 3 (2 places), change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 14, line 8, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 14, line 11, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 14, line 13, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 21, line 1, before "computer-executable" insert **—a—**.
- Claim 21, line 1, change "elements" to **—program—**.
- Claim 21, line 4, change "run" to **—running—**.
- Claim 21, line 5, before "program" insert **—computer-executable—**.
- Claim 21, line 8, change "15" to **—plurality of—**.
- Claim 21, line 10, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.
- Claim 21, line 11, change "synchronisation" to **—synchronization—**.
- Claim 21, line 14, change "synchroniser" to **—synchronizer—**.

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1 – 21 are allowed over the prior art of record. An examiner's statement of reasons for allowance is given in the following:

Claim 3 and Claim 14 are allowed because they are respectively rewritten in

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independent form including all the limitations of base claim and allowable subject matter as recited in the Office Action mailed 04/17/2006.

Claims 1, 2, 4 – 13 and 15 – 21 are allowed because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the following subject matter:

- A method of testing a circuit under design having a plurality of functional elements and having a plurality of clock environments, at least one signal passing from one clock environment to another clock environment in said circuit, said method comprising steps of simulating said circuit to identify one or more of said plurality of functional elements that is a source of propagating of a unknown state output for a predetermined time after a timing event of a clock signal and determining which of said plurality of functional elements is a synchronizer to thereby identify there is a synchronization problem for said at least one signal passing from said one clock environment to said another clock environment in combination with other limitations recited in independent **Claim 1** and **Claim 21**, respectively.

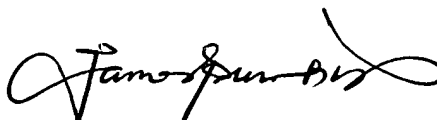
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sun J. Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272 - 1899. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Sun J. Lin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2825
August 17, 2006


SUN JAMES LIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER